

ECONOMIC UPDATE

JANUARY 2016

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ECONOMIC INDICATORS

The New Housing Price Index for St. John's Metro was 151.6 in October 2015 up 0.4%*

The Consumer Price Index for St. John's Metro was 128.9 in November 2015 up 1.0%*

Retail trade for Newfoundland and Labrador was \$758.5 million in October 2015 up 2.6%*

* same month in the previous year.

LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

St. John's Metro, (seasonally adjusted, three-month moving average)

	November 15	Chg. *
Labour Force	123,500	-0.6%
Unemployment Rate	6.2%	0.2pt
Employment Rate	64.6%	-1.3pt
Participation Rate	68.9%	-1.2pt

* same month in the previous year.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Food and drink sales increase year over year in province

Sales in the food services and drinking places subsector rose 6.31% to \$76.56 million from October 2014 to October 2015 in Newfoundland and Labrador. Nationally, sales increased 4.0% to \$5.1 billion. According to Statistics Canada, restaurant sales were up in eight provinces in October and decreased in Alberta and Quebec. (Source: CANSIM table 355-0006).

St. John's ranks 4th on new GreenScore City Index

GreenScore Canada Limited, a Canadian non-profit foundation working towards economic and environmental harmony, has developed an eco-index that lets you know how eco-friendly your city is at a glance. The City of St. John's ranked fourth

out of 20 Canadian cities in the Small Cities category.

The primary objective of the GreenScore City Index is to measure the ecological impact cities exert on the biosphere. The index is adapted from the United Nations circle of sustainability initiative; however, the score results are measured from nature's perspective allowing it to accurately reflect city eco-footprints. The 2016 edition establishes baseline scores for each city. GreenScore will use the baseline numbers in future scores to measure the footprint pressure each city exerts on the biosphere.

<http://greenscore.ca/greenscore-city-index.html>

Woodford Sheppard Architecture recognized nationally

St. John's based Woodford Sheppard Architecture Ltd. is among the 13 design firms featured in "Twenty + Change", an exhibition, with an accompanying catalogue, that captures some of Canada's best up-and-coming architects, urban designers and landscape architects. Twenty + Change: Next Generation is a non-profit of the same name that highlights the best in design and architecture through a juried selection process, followed by a related exhibition and publication. Woodford Sheppard was selected based on a number of projects including designs for a new church in Sheshatshiu. Co-founders Chris Woodford and Taryn Sheppard opened their practice in 2013.

ST. JOHN'S

Business Approvals

Kelseys

302 Kenmount Road

St. John's Fish Exchange

351 Water St.

Little Peoples Workshop

4 Rumboldt Place

Dream Nails

11-17 Kenmount Road

Progressive Physiotherapy

355 Main Road

EVOO Restaurant

315 Water St.

Brooks Automotive

670 Blackmarch Road

Business Portals

1 Church Hill

Coastal Outdoors

585 Torbay Road

Mochanopoly Cafe

204 Water St.

New Home -

Based Businesses

Aesthetic Services

45A Eastaff St.

Claire Wilshire Language

Services

71 Freshwater Road

Arborist Business

8 Charlottetown Pl.

Derek Penney Electrical Ltd.

15A Thompson Pl.

Family Home Child Care

53 Hillview Dr. East

Total Dec. 31, 2015 145

Regular 102

Home-based 43

City Building Permits (Year-to-date as of January 4, 2016)

Type	2014	2015	% Variance
Commercial	\$174,912,000	\$130,911,000	-25
Industrial	\$125,300	\$0	-100
Government/Institutional*	\$78,479,000	\$16,513,000	-79
Residential	\$141,540,000	\$85,524,000	-40
Repairs	\$5,160,000	\$4,236,000	-18
Total	\$400,216,300	\$237,184,000	-41

* Government/institutional data doesn't include the full range of permit activity undertaken by the provincial government and its agencies.

Upcoming Events

Lunch & Learn Transitioning to ISO 9001:2015	Jan. 12	www.cme-mec.nl.ca
NL Organic Opportunities Conference	Jan. 13-14	jaimie@nlfa.ca
OceansAdvance AGM and Election of Officers	Jan. 12	www.soceansadvance.net
Fengshui for Small Business Workshop	Jan. 18	www.4d-floor-plans.com
The Changing Role of Expertise and the Whole New Policymaker	Jan. 20	www.mun.ca/harriscentre
Atlantic export opportunities in the EU webinar	Jan. 26	www.apec-econ.ca
Board of Trade Business Outlook Conference	Jan. 28	www.bot.nf.ca

CITY INITIATIVES

Deadline approaching for applications to city committees, experts panels & working groups

The City of St. John's is accepting applications for the repurposed advisory committees, expert panels and working groups until January 15. Application forms can be found in the Forms and Permits section of Living in St. John's at www.stjohns.ca. The Terms of Reference for all can be found on the City's website. If you require alternate formats, assistance with the application or have any other enquiries, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at cityclerk@stjohns.ca. These committees create opportunities for citizens and organizations to engage with city staff and Council.

Advisory Committees

- Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory Committee
- Arts and Culture Advisory Committee
- Downtown Advisory Committee
- Environmental Advisory Committee
- Municipal Advisory Committee on Youth
- Seniors Advisory Committee

Experts Panels

- Animal Control Experts Panel
- Built Heritage Experts Panel

Working Groups

- Affordable Housing Working Group
- Paratransit Working Group

ST. JOHN'S

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